



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

classification without difficulty for practical purposes I do not accept it as a real analysis of the subject of religion as a whole."

A discussion of the report followed. Mr. Hanson said that the library of the Divinity school of the University of Chicago library would be reclassified according to the L. C. scheme, but that theological libraries not a part of a university might well favor a special scheme. Mr. Root said that both the classification and catalog were equally useful tools and agreed with Mr. Lewis that Dewey was perfectly practical for a theological collection. Mr. Voge suggested that recommendations made by theological libraries to the Decimal Advisory Committee would be considered by that committee. Mr. Harned moved that the

committees be continued for another year and instructed to present to the A. L. A. Advisory Committee on the D. C. suggestions toward a revision of the 200's. This motion was carried.

The question of a union list of religious periodicals and serials was discussed briefly.

A suggestion that the word theology in the name of the Round Table be changed to some broader term raised a lively discussion over the scope of the word. It was finally decided to change the name to the Round Table of the Libraries of Religion and Theology.

Dr. L. M. Robinson, librarian of the Philadelphia Divinity School, was elected chairman for the next year, and Miss Julia Pettee of New York, secretary.

## LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS

### Mid-year Meeting, Louisville, Ky., June 23, 1917

The mid-year meeting of the League of Library Commissions was held in the Red Room of the Seelbach Hotel, at 2:30 p. m., June 23, with Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, president of the Indiana Library Commission, presiding. Seventeen of the twenty-nine states belonging to the league were represented by twenty-two persons officially connected with the respective commissions.

Prof. Will D. Howe, head of the English Department of Indiana University, opened the program with a talk on "The part of state supported library activities in the educational program of the state." Mr. Howe spoke of the change in the ideal of library service from one of nourishing culture to one of training for service. The moving picture, the newspaper, and the library have taken their place beside the church, the school, and the home as factors of popular education. He made an appeal for popular support of libraries and declared that public sentiment must realize

that the library is the heart of the community.

The second part of the program was devoted to a discussion regarding the best unit for library extension—state, county, district or township.

Miss Minnie W. Leatherman of North Carolina read a paper on

THE STATE AS A UNIT FOR LIBRARY EXTENSION  
(See p. 230)

Miss Harriet C. Long of the Brumback Library of Van Wert, Ohio, followed with a paper entitled

THE COUNTY AS A UNIT FOR LIBRARY EXTENSION  
(See p. 232)

Mr. John A. Lowe, agent of the Massachusetts Free Library Commission, next outlined the plan in operation in Massachusetts in a paper on

THE LIBRARY DISTRICT AS A UNIT FOR LIBRARY EXTENSION  
(See p. 234)

The subject of a paper by Miss Mayme C. Snipes, librarian of the Plainfield, Ind., Public Library, was

THE TOWNSHIP AS A UNIT FOR LIBRARY  
EXTENSION  
(See p. 235)

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Spencer, representing New York State Grange, made a plea for the modification of the parcel post law so as to give increased service to the rural districts.

Miss Ahern, in her contribution to the discussion, referred to Professor Howe's talk and emphasized the fact that the people are paying for service and that in too many libraries this service is still perfunctory, that the personal touch is necessary, and that the librarians are the apostles of books. They are not giving books to the public, for the books belong to the public.

Miss Snipes answered many questions regarding her work at Plainfield.

Following this discussion, Mr. Lowe, of Massachusetts, again spoke, outlining the relation of the library commissions to the larger libraries of the state. He spoke particularly of this work in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Library Commission law allows for direct financial aid to towns having a valuation of \$1,000,000 or less. In the last two years the commission has undertaken to be of more direct use to the larger libraries of the state, particularly in an advisory capacity. The files at the office are constantly used by the larger libraries for plans of library buildings, for comparative statistics, and for the employment of librarians and assistants. Visits are made to help in the planning of buildings, and recommendations are made to boards. In the last year, there were 44 appointments made on the recommendation of the commission.

Another work of which Mr. Lowe gave an interesting account was the weeding of libraries to remove the dead material. In making library surveys, the commission has accomplished much. These surveys are done generally on request of the library authorities. Conditions of the li-

brary and the town are investigated and recommendations made. In some cases where conditions are patently bad, the survey is made without an invitation from the local library authorities. In the work with foreigners in the larger cities, Massachusetts is doing more active work than any other state. The commission has a competent director in the person of Miss J. Maud Campbell, who helps in the selection of books in foreign languages, and arranges for lectures on American institutions to be given in foreign languages in the libraries. At these lectures, there are displayed groups of books in the language in which the lecture is being given.

One of the difficulties to be met in a state where most of the libraries are much older than the commission, is a feeling that the commission is in a way interfering with local independence.

The final part of the afternoon's program was given to an open discussion of what state commissions could do to meet the conditions occasioned by the present war. This discussion was led by Miss Fannie C. Rawson, of Kentucky. Miss Elizabeth B. Wales, of Missouri, said that in considering the part which her commission could play she had asked herself the question: What should I wish a library to do if I were a man going away? She emphasized the duty of the state commission to oversee the distribution of publications along the lines of conservation and other cognate subjects, to the small libraries of the state. Actual distribution by the commission may not be necessary, but the commission should see that each library is on the mailing list.

Mr. Robert P. Bliss, of Pennsylvania, sounded a note of warning against the temptation of librarians and library assistants to be attracted to other demands for war service at the expense of library service. He emphasized the necessity of sticking to the job, of helping people at home to keep from worrying and to maintain their mental balance.

Mr. James I. Wyer, Jr., of New York, opened his discussion by telling of a child

who came from a home saddened by the departure to war of young men in the family, to find in the library a cheerful place. He contrasted the present condition in England where the libraries are closed with that in France where even the smallest library has been given some task to do. As we get further into the war, there will be stricter economy in social activities, and the public library with its free recreation will be called upon to supply the resulting increased demand for amusement. It is essential that libraries stand valiantly for no diminution of income.

Mr. Matthew S. Dudgeon, of Wisconsin, in referring to Mr. Bliss' advice to stick to the job, said that libraries must continue their service, but they must do the usual thing in an unusual way and even some unusual things. He appealed to the libraries to do such things as distribute Red Cross literature, help societies with filing and recording, be the publicity agent

for useful literature and bulletins, collect historical material and collect books for soldiers. The library commission should see that libraries fall in line with all these movements.

Mr. Johnson Brigham, of Iowa, closed the discussion with a question as to the best method of supplying military camps with books. How far should the cooperation of the Y. M. C. A. be used and are trained librarians necessary at the camps? Should state commissions oversee the collection of books and money for these camps? The discussion of these questions was left until after the report of the specially appointed War committee to be made before the end of the Conference.

The second session of the League was a joint session with the National Association of State Libraries and the American Association of Law Libraries. This discussion will be reported in the proceedings of the former.